Reply to Office Action of May 26, 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Cancelled)
- 2. (Cancelled)
- 3. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the difference in fat content is of from 1 to 40% on a fat:energy ratio.
- 4. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the difference in protein content is of from 1 to 40% on a protein energy ratio.
- 5. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the difference in carbohydrate content is of from 1 to 40% on a carbohydrate:energy ratio.
- (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least one component is a dried ready-to-eat cereal product.
- 7. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein one component comprises at least 40% fat on an energy ratio basis and a different component comprises at least 40% protein on an energy ratio basis.
- 8. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, for use in providing an optimum macronutrient diet to an animal.
- 9. (Cancelled)
- (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, for use in animal health benefit.

 (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the food compositions are separately packaged.

Docket No.: HO-P03188US0

- 12. (Cancelled)
- 13. (Cancelled).
- 14. (Currently amended) A method of animal weight maintenance, the method comprising:

simultaneously providing said animal unlimited quantities of a multi-component foodstuff, the foodstuff comprising two or more compartmentalised food compositions, wherein at least two of the compositions differ from each other by at least 1% on an energy ratio basis in their content of two or more of the following: fat, protein and carbohydrate; and

allowing said animal to freely self-select from the compartmentalised food compositions;

wherein the driver for the self-selection is based upon the protein energy ratio of the compositions a target optimum macronutrient ratio for the animal's metabolic needs.

15. (Cancelled).